

England [Misc. P. 6. D. 11]
- III Charles I.]

B. 5. 17/1 (2)

HIS

MAIESTIES ANSVVER

To the Petition which
accompanied the Declara-
tion of the House of
COMMONS.

Presented to Him at *Hampton-Court*,
the first of December, 1641.



Printed at *London*, and re-printed at *Edinburgh*.



Agencia de Embarques e Desembarques



HIS
MAJESTIES
ANSWER

To the *Petition* which accompanied
the *Declaration* presented to him
at *Hampton-Court*, 1 Decemb.

1 6 4 1.



EE having received from you,
soon, after Our returne out of
Scotland, a long *Petition* consi-
sting of many desires, of great
moment, together with a De-
claration of a very unusuall
nature annexed thereunto, Wee
had taken sometime to consider
of it, as befitted Us in a matter
of that consequence, being con-
fident, that your owne reason and regard to Us, as well

as Our expresse intimation by Our comptroller to that purpose, would have restrained you from the publishing of it, till such time, as you should have received Our answer to it : But, much against Our expectation, finding the contrary, that the said Declaration is already abroad in print, by directions from your House, as appears by printed Copy ; We must let you know that We are sensible of the disrespect. Notwithstanding, it is our intention, that no failing on your part, shall make Us fail in Ours, of giving all due satisfaction to the desires of our people, in a Parliamentary way ; And therefore We send you this Answer to your Petition, reserving Our self in point of the Declaration, which We think unparliamentary, and shall take a course to do that which We shall think fit in prudence and honour.

To the Petition We say, that although there are divers things in the Preamble of it, which We are so farre from admitting, that We professe Wee cannot at all understand them, as, *Of a wicked and malignant Partie prevalent in the Government ; of some of that party admitted to our privie Council, and to other employments of trust, and nearest to Us and our children ; Of Endeavours to sowe among the people false scandals and imputations, to blemish and disgrace the proceedings of the Parliament :* All, or any of which, did We know of, We should bee as readie to remedie and punish, as you to complain of. That the Prayers of your Petition are grounded upon such premises as We must in no wise admit ; Yet notwithstanding We are pleased to give this answer to you.

To the first concerning Religion, consisting of several branches, We say, that for the preserving the Peace and Safety of the Kingdome from the designs of the Popish party

157

party, VVe have, and will still concur with all the just desires of Our people in a Parliamentarie way ; that for the depriving of the Bishops of their Votes in Parliament, VVe would have you consider, that their right is grounded upon the fundamentall Law of the Kingdome, and constitution of Parliament ; This Wee would have you consider, but since you desire Our concurrence herein in a Parliamentarie way, We will give no further answer at this time.

As for the abridging of the inordinate power of the Clergie, We conceive that the taking away of the high Commission Court hath well moderated that, but if there continue any usurpations, or Excesses in their jurisdictions, We therein neither have nor will protect them.

Unto that Clause which concerneth Corruptions (as you stile them) in Religion, in Church-government, and in Discipline, and the removing of such unnecessary Ceremonies as weak consciences might cheque at. That for any Illegall Innovations which may have crept in, We shall willingly concur in the removall of them. That if Our Parliament shall advise Us to call a National Synod, which may duly examine such Ceremonies as give just cause of offence to any, We shall take it into consideration, and apply Our self to give due satisfaction therein. But We are very sory to heare in such generall termes, Corruption in Religion objected, since we are perswaded in Our conscience, that no Church can bee found upon the earth that professeth the true Religion with more purity of doctrine then the Church of *England* doth, nor where the government and Discipline are joyntly more beautified, and free from superstition, then as they are here established by law, which (by the grace of God) VVe will

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will with Constancy maintain (while we live) in their Purity and Glory, not only against all invasions of Popery, but also from the irreverence of those many Schismatics and Separatists, wherewith of late this Kingdome & this City abounds, to the great dishonour and hazard both of Church and State; for the suppression of whom Wee require your timely and active assistance.

To the second prayer of the Petition, concerning the removal and choice of Councillours, We know not any of Our Council to whom the Character set forth in the Petition can belong. That by those whom VVe had exposed to triall, VVe have already given you sufficient testimony, that there is no man so near unto Us in place or affection, whom VVe will not leave to the justice of the Law, if you shall bring a particular charge and sufficient proofs against him; and of this VVe do again assure you, but in the mean time VVe wish you to forbear such generall aspersions as may reflect upon all Our Council, since you name none in particular.

That for the choice of Our Counsellours and Ministers of State, it were to debarre Us that naturall liberty all Free-men have, and it is the undoubted right of the Crown of *England*, to call such persons to Our Secret Councils, to publike employment, and our particular service, as we shall think fit, so VVe are, and ever shall be very carefull to make election of such persons in those places of trust, as shall have given good testimonies of their abilities and integritie, and against whom there can be no just cause of exception whereon reasonably to ground a diffidency; and to choices of this nature VVe assure you that the mediation of the nearest unto Us hath always concurred.

To

To the third Prayer of your petition, concerning *Ireland*, we understand your desire of not alienating the forfeited lands thereof, to proceed from your much care and love, And likewise that it may be a resolution very fit for Us to take, but whether it be seasonable [to declare resolutions of that nature before the events of a war be seen, that we much doubt of. Howsoever, We cannot but thank you for this care, and your cheerfull engagement, for the suppression of that rebellion, upon the speedy effecting whereof, the glorie of God in the protestant profession, the safety of the Brittish there, Our honour, and that of the Nation so much depends, all the interests of this Kingdome being so involved in that businesse, We cannot but quicken your affections therein, and shall desire you to frame you Councels, and to give such expedition to the work, as the nature thereof, and the pressures in point of time requires, and whereof you are put in mind by the daily insolence and increase of those rebels.

For Conclusion, your promise to apply your selves to such courses as may support Our Royall Estate with Honour and plenty at home, and with Power and Reputation abroad, is that which We have ever promised Our Self, both from your Loyalties and Affections, and also for what We have already done, and shall daily go adding unto, for the comfort and happinesse of Our people.

FINIS.